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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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RED TIDE SCOURGE STUDIED

A determined effort to find an effective control of the Florida red tide is receiving the attention of Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

On a recent trip to Florida Secretary McKay met with representatives of the affected areas and discussed the problem.

Since returning to Washington he has discussed the matter with Assistant Secretary Orme Lewis, who was with him on his recent visit to Florida, and who is directly responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and also with Mr. John Farley, Director of that service.

Mr. Lewis reported that the Service is presently conducting research at Ft. Myers, Florida, with an annual appropriation of \$35,000, and has reported that due to current conditions in the area affected it appears that further research, through the use of a scientifically equipped boat, will be of much benefit. The approximate cost of the additional work will be \$20,000 annually, in addition to the cost of purchasing and equipping the boat.

Secretary McKay stated that the Department is determining the possibility of allotting funds from current appropriations to finance the cost of the additional research work. The Department is also studying the possibility of making a request for a supplemental appropriation in the event the requirements for such an appropriation can be met.

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